

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
ABSTRACT

Consumer Affairs – Establishment of the Telangana State Consumer Welfare Fund by mobilizing finances – Constitution of Board of Trustees to monitor the utilization of the amount from the fund – Orders – Issued.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (CS.I-CCS) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 8

Dated: 27/02/2016
Read the following:

1. G.O.Ms.No.53, CAF&CS(CS.III) Department, dt.9.8.2004.
2. From the Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Ref No. CA/101/2014.

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O R D E R:

In supersession of orders issued in the reference 1st read above and based on the report of Commissioner of Civil Supplies in the reference 2nd read above to create awareness on Consumer Rights from Village level to State level for the benefit of the common man, it is necessary to strengthen the consumer organizations / institutions at various levels. He has further suggested that to make available the required funds for this purpose, it is necessary to create a source of funding viz., Telangana Consumer Welfare Fund by pooling funds from various sources and to use the same for the benefit of the common measures.

2. Government have examined the proposal in detail and keeping in view the need to strengthen the consumer awareness, hereby approve the proposal for creation of Telangana State Consumer Welfare Fund by mobilizing the resources as follows:

- i) 10% from out of the budget allocated under Consumer Awareness Fund.
- ii) Contributions from the PSU Oil Companies (HPCL, IOC, BPC, IBP) / other PSUs.
- iii) Contributions from Rice Millers.
- iv) Contributions from NGOs.
- v) Contributions from Private Industries.
- vi) Unclaimed refunds of the security deposits made by the dealers in food grains, edible oils, sugar, petroleum products or any other commodities and the rice millers with the Licensing Authority under the provisions of various Licensing / Control Orders.
- vii) Any other source to be notified by the Government.

3. This fund shall be operated by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Food & Civil Supplies. The fund shall be utilized for extending financial assistance to promote the welfare of the consumers, to protect the consumers from exploitation, unfair trade practices and to strengthen the consumer movement in the State. This fund is a non-plan public account outside the Consolidated Fund and non-lapsable. The unspent amount budget during the year goes back to this account.

4. The head of account for operating the Consumer Welfare Fund through public account is 3456 – Civil Supplies - M.H – 104 - Consumer Welfare Fund GH(11) – Normal State Plan – SH(04) – State Consumer Welfare Fund-500 – Other Charges -503-Other Expenditure.

(contd...2.)

5. After creation of the fund, the Government of India will also be requested to exempt the contribution made to the Fund by the individuals/institutions/companies from the Income Tax under Section 80.

6. The applicant, who is desirous to seek financial assistance from the State Consumer Welfare Fund, is required to apply in the prescribed proforma to the Commissioner of Civil Supplies & E.O. Secretary to Government, Consumer Affairs, Food & Civil Supplies Dept., Civil Supplies Bhavan, Somajiguda, Hyderabad.

The applicant should submit annual reports, statement of accounts, list members and such other information as required.

7. The following are eligible for assistance:-

Any agency / organization / institution engaged in consumer welfare activities a period of three years and registered with the Registrar of Societies or any other authority of the State / Central Government under the law for the time being in force.

Preference will be given to such organizations those workings in rural areas and having larger participation of women.

N.B: In case, a group of organizations approach with a common project, one organization may function as mother unit and it should not be necessary for all the participants to separately fulfill the condition of three years.

8. The registered consumer voluntary organizations consumer activists, institutions working for consumer welfare activities shall be eligible for grant of the expenditure from the Consumer Welfare Fund as indicated below.

- a) Expenses towards training up to 75%(recurring only)
- b) Conduct of work shops/seminars upto 75% expenditure (recurring only)
- c) Cost of publicity material by various organizations up to 50% (recurring only)
- d) Redressal of consumer grievances – 90% expenditure (recurring only)
- e) Research / Analysis (Testing Labs) 90% (non recurring)

9. The following items may qualify for assistance:

- Recurring expenditure depends upon the nature of project; non recurring expenditure on
 - Purchase of equipments / machinery
 - Purchase of furniture / fixtures
 - Other items as may be considered necessary by the Board of Trustees.

NB: Construction of buildings and purchase of vehicles are strictly prohibited.

Payment of salaries or wage of staff on recurring basis will not be considered as a general rule but appointment of some experts / professional staff as integral part of the project may be considered in deserving cases for a limited period. Such expenditure should not, however, exceed 10% of the total project cost and will be considered depending on the nature of the project.

(contd...3.)

10. Terms and conditions of Financial Assistance:

- i) The fund should not be used for any party or political propaganda.
- ii) Quarterly progress reports of the implementation of the programme / project should be submitted to the Department of Consumer Affairs, Food & Civil Supplies, Secretariat regularly.
- iii) The organization should maintain a record of all the assets acquired wholly or substantially out of the financial assistance given from the Telangana State Consumer Welfare Fund. Such assets shall not be disposed off, encumbered or utilized for the purposes other than those for which the assistance was given without prior sanction of the Government of Telangana. Should the organization cease to exist any time, such assets will revert to the Government of Telangana.

11. Government also hereby constitute a Board of Trustees to supervise and monitor the utilization of the Fund with the following:

- a. Commissioner of Civil Supplies & E.O. Prl. Secretary to Govt., CAF&CS Dept .. Chairman
- b. Secretary to Govt., Finance Dept .. Member
- c. Commissioner of School Education .. Member
- d. Commissioner of Commercial Taxes .. Member
- e. Commissioner, Transport Dept .. Member
- f. Commissioner, Panchayt Raj Dept .. Member
- g. Director, Women Development & Child Welfare Dept .. Member
- h. Commissioner/Director, Municipal Admn Dept .. Member
- i. Member Secretary, TS Pollution Control Board .. Member
- j. One of the Presidents of the (10) District Fora to be nominated by the president of State Commission .. Member
- k. One NGO to be nominated by the Chairman of the Board .. Member
- l. Deputy Director(Consumer Affairs) o/o the Commissioner of Civil Supplies .. Member and Convener

12. The Board of Trustees shall meet as and when it is required and review receipts and utilization of funds. The Board of Trustees are hereby authorized to incur the expenditure as per the guidelines notified by the Government.

13. The Collectors shall communicate this order to all the stakeholders viz. the Consumer Voluntary Organizations, all NGOs / Associations / Institutions / Agencies associated with consumer activities for information. Required publicity shall also be arranged through press and other media for information to the public.

14. The Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Hyderabad shall take necessary action in the matter.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF TELANGANA)

Dr. RAJAT KUMAR

EX-OFFICIO PRL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To

The Commissioner of Civil Supplies and EOPS to Govt., Hyderabad

All Members of the Board of Trustees.

The President, Telangana State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commn, Hyd.

Copy to:

The Secy, Min of CAF&PD, Dept of Consumer Affairs, GOI, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi.

All Collectors/Joint Collectors/ District Supply Officers.

All Presidents of District Forums.

The Controller of Legal Metrology, Hyderabad.

The Commissioner, I&PR Dept., Hyderabad.

The Secretary to C.M.

PS to CS/ OSD to Min(Fin & CS)

SF/SC

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER